## Message Text

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O R 121738Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3091 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LIMDIS

FOR UNDER SECETARY COOPER

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, FR, XA

SUBJ: GISCARD'S INITIATIVE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

TO AFRICA

REFS: (A) STATE 147390, (B) PARIS 17965

- 1. ON JUNE 12, EMBASSY MINECON CONVEYED UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S MESSAGE (REFTEL A) TO FROMENT-MEURICE. FROMENT-MEURICE HAD JUST RECEIVED ROUGHLY THE SAME MESSAGE VIA THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE RESPONDED CAUTIOUSLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION.
- 2. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRONOLOGY GOING BACK TO APRIL CONFIDENTIAL

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IS CORRECT AND HE DOES NOT QUESTION THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESIDENT CARTER AND GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 26. BEFORE GIVING A FINAL ANSWER TO UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S MESSAGE, FROMENT-MEURICE CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL TO KNOW WHETHER THE POSITION IN REFTEL A TAKES FULLY INTO ACCOUNT WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

WE REPLIED THAT WE ASSUMED IT DOES BUT, GIVEN FROMENT-MEURICE'S INSISTENCE ON THE POINT, WE WOULD PUT THE MATTER TO WASHINGTON.

- 3. FROMENT-MEURICE ADDED THE HOPE THAT, AT A MINIMUM, WE WOULD NOT PRECLUDE DISCUSSION OF A FUND AS ONE OF SEVERAL OPTIONS AT THE JUNE 22-23 EXPERTS MEETING. (PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES IN REFTEL A ARE IN ERROR. FROMENT-MEURICE CONFIRMS THAT THE CORRECT DATES ARE JUNE 22 AND 23 AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B.) HE THUS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER, IF THERE IS DISCUSSION OF THE FUND" OPTION, WE WOULD REFUSE TO ATTEND THE MEETING. (THE MESSAGE HE RECEIVED FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SUGGESTED WE MIGHT.)
- 4. FROMENT-MEURICE ALSO WANTS TO KNOW WHETHER U.S. EXPERTS WOULD BE MANDATED TO GO BEYOND SIMPLE IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS FOR JOINT FINANCING AND TO DISCUSS THE "POLITICAL, PROCEDURAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK" THAT WILL BE REQUIRED EVEN IF THERE IS NO FUND WITH SINGLE-SOURCE FINANCING.
- 5. MINECON AGREED TO TRANSMIT FROMENT-MEURICE'S QUESTIONS BUT SAID HE THOUGHT THE MAIN POINTS TO BE BORNE IN MIND ARE THAT THE U.S. IS SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO JOIN A NEW MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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POOLED FUNDING, AND THAT WE ARE CONVINCED OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES CAN BE OBTAINED OTHERWISE.

6. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER RESPONSE TO BE CONVEYED TO FROMENT-MEURICE. HARTMAN

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